



LGBTQIA+ Rainbow Commission Minutes

Date: Thursday, September 23, 2021

Time: 6:30 PM -8:30 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Notice to the Public on meeting privacy In the interests of preventing abuse of videoconferencing technology (i.e. Zoom Bombing) all participants, including members of the public, wishing to engage via the Zoom App must register for each meeting and will notice multi-step authentication protocols. Please allow additional time to join the meeting. Further, members of the public who wish to participate without providing their name may still do so by registering to receive the meeting info and using the telephone dial-in information provided.

Please read Governor Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provision of Open Meeting Law for more information regarding virtual public hearings and meetings: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

Attendees: Commissioners: Lisa Krinsky (Co-Chair), Andy Robinson (Co-Chair), Susan Ryan-Vollmar, Kari Sasportas, Brooks Harrelson, Helene Newberg

Liaisons: Len Diggins, Select Board; Marci Shapiro-Ide, Council on Aging

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm. Kari Sasportas assigned as minute-taker.

1. Remote participation statement and guidelines
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Assign minute-taker
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. August meeting minutes.
 - i. Brooks name was added twice, need to correct for the record.
 - b. SRV moved to approve consent agenda, HN seconds, passed unanimously.
5. Liaison Updates
 - a. Council on Aging: MSI reported on a successful event at Lexington Community Center last Tuesday, 9/14, that RC co-sponsored. A total of 6 seniors from different towns and 1 younger adult attended. The next

event is on Friday, 10/8 at 4pm and will feature Improv Boston. MSI hoping to increase intergenerational attendance and would like RC to spread the word to GSAs/QSAs in Arlington and Lexington. LexPride will create a Facebook posting to promote this event that the RC can repost or share. MSI can send a Town email. Real Queer will be back in person at the Robbins Library on 10/28 and will feature a horror movie called Lyle. Masking will be required so no snacks will be allowed. An LGBT senior group is meeting on zoom and in person every 3rd week.

- b. Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI): No liaison present. Jillian provided the following update for AR to share:
 - i. The Reprecincting process is taking place right now for precinct boundary lines in town, and Jill sits on the reprecincting working group with the Town Clerk, Senior Planner from Planning Department and our GIS person
 - ii. Every ten years all communities in the Commonwealth are required to review their population numbers after the Federal Census results are published and submit a new precinct map for approval by the State. The Secretary of State provides preliminary maps that are solely based on population. The state provided maps require local input as the State's mapping algorithm focuses only on population numbers and community review of the boundary lines and underlying demographic data from the Federal Census is needed to adjust the boundaries so they respect natural neighborhoods and protect voting rights of minority groups.
 - iii. Arlington Town Clerk Juli Brazile has proposed that the Select Board reduce the number of precincts from 21 to 16 to allow more flexibility in the face of anticipated changes to election law, especially regarding early voting and vote by mail. The Clerk has prepared a [fact sheet](#) (revised 9/13/21) with information on the reprecincting process and guidance on how the public can be involved. Residents are invited to provide feedback through a variety of channels to assist the Reprecincting Working Group (RWG) in preparing draft maps for review by the Select Board. Please check out all of the information on the Elections Page and provide feedback if you can. The Working group has been working over the last month and continuously as information is updated to layout the map options with updated precinct boundaries based on not just population changes but also data that includes, race, age, housing, renters versus homeownership, and income. <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/11488/191>
 - iv. Reminder to commissioners to complete the updated ethics training by September 29th.
 - v. Finally, 10/19-10/21 is the Human Rights Campaign Connecting Communities: National LGBTQ Municipal Liaison Summit; Jill and Andy attended virtually last year it would be great to participate again.
 - 1. \$35 per person for registration, if any commissioners are interested we can do registration and get it set up asap.

- c. Library: No liaison present. MSI reported that new Librarian is Julia Starkey.
 - d. Police Department: No liaison present. AR read the following update: On November 9th The Matthew Shepard Foundation will be doing a training with the Arlington Police Department. The training and presentations will cover hate crimes versus hate incidents, the 1st amendment, and hate crime data. Police officers will be in training that morning, and then an afternoon session is available for some community members. At this time Jill is working with Chief Flaherty on the invites for community members as it is limited to 40 people because of Covid. We will be in touch about commission delegates and opportunities to give spots to other residents as we are hoping to have a diverse group present.
 - e. Select Board: Len Diggins – Reprecincting. Fact sheet may be found here: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/57852/637671259631830000> and more information here: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/Home/Components/News/News/11488/191>. Provide any feedback on ARPA funds to LD or Town Manager.
6. Working Group Updates and Membership
- a. Community Engagement & Upcoming Events
 - i. RC held a “Housing in a Box” discussion on September 9th with AR as facilitator and KS as notetaker. Guillermo Hamlin attended and spoke about his idea for a housing overlay concept and his supplemental resources regarding this concept were submitted to the Assistant Planning Director along with the minutes from this session.
 - ii. Starlight Square event co-sponsored by RC and held in Cambridge on 9/11 was successful.
 - iii. Farmer’s Market: AR represented RC on 9/8. There was an order submitted for 2 table skirts which went above budget but approved by the co-chairs. The next tabling event is 10/20. MG volunteered to cover from 2-4pm and BH for 3:30 – 6pm.
 - iv. Volunteer engagement: 30-40 new names added to our mailing list. The next step for AR and BH to set up time to engage volunteers. LK asked us to determine what we want volunteers to accomplish so there are clear roles when we engage with them. MG suggested we create a universal calendar that lays out what we are doing for events during the year and which are in person or virtual. It’s more difficult to capture people for virtual events. BH raised an idea that came up last meeting to have a 4-hour retreat to discuss strategies and goals for RC, including volunteer engagement.
 - v. Transgender Day of Remembrance (11/20) and National Coming Out Day (10/11): there was discussion on whether there is time to host virtual events or social media outreach. For National Coming Out Day LD suggested potentially hosting a zoom hang out with the community and LGBTQ Select Board members on 10/11/21. AR offered to highlight in newsletter. LK suggested we could do something like a hang out twice a year like HRC does Coffee with a

Commissioner events. For Transgender Day of Remembrance on 11/20, AR offered to reach out to LexPride to plan.

- vi. Heights Halloween window painting activity: \$25 entry fee. The date, 10/2/21, is coming up quickly. MG suggested she could send call out to high school and middle school GSAs to have them paint the window on the behalf of the RC. MG agreed to be point person for RC assuming there is interest from the students. MG/LK will ask Christina to use RC funds to pay for registration.
- vii. AR will be unavailable for 2 weeks starting 10/21.
- b. Communications – SRV is working on behalf of the RC on the Civilian Police Advisory Board Study Committee. With KMM stepping down we will need to be mindful of recruiting someone to help with communications. MG offered to assist as time allows with newsletter. AR also suggested asking for volunteers who are social media savvy.
- c. Public Education – MG provided update. The Task Force, led by Asst. Superintendent Dr. MacNeal, will interface with the district’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion leadership to promote and support continued awareness, empathy, access, inclusion, and belonging for LGBTQIA+ students and their families. Specifically, the task force will: communicate, create connectivity, and partner with various stakeholder groups within Arlington; suggest revisions to the curriculum; review district policies; promote and support LGBTQIA+ initiatives within the district; plan meetings/caregiver forums focused on relevant topics; and give input into developing professional development and strategies for educating the community.
- d. Town Systems & Policies
 - i. HRC Connecting Communities: National LGBTQ Municipal Liaison Summit 10/19 – 10/21 <https://www.hrc.org/events/connecting-communities-a-national-lgbtq-liaison-summit>; \$35 per person registration fee; agenda posted here: <https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/2020-Connecting-Communities-Program-Booklet-1.pdf?mtime=20210610153606&focal=none>
 - ii. SRV provided a Civilian Police Advisory Board Study Committee update. The committee was created in 2020 and has reviewed models of civilian oversight. There are 4 models that were reviewed: investigative model, review model, auditor/monitor model, and hybrid model. The Study Committee published a 37-page interim report that may be accessed here: <https://www.arlingtonma.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/58004/637679134003930000>. In MA only 4 communities, Cambridge, Springfield, Pittsfield and Boston, have civilian oversight boards. Based on review there are some basic principles, including a need to include BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ people in the process, and a need to recommend involvement of police from all levels of the task force. The Study committee has adopted 8 goals of civilian oversight. Arlington has approximately 4-5 complaints investigated per year.
 - 1. Commissions are being asked 2 questions for feedback to the study committee. RC could describe what they heard

from LGBTQIA+ community in 2020, or collect feedback over social media. LK suggested RC could take this back to community for feedback then collate responses before sending feedback to the study commission. SRV stated there will be a way for the community to submit feedback anonymously. RC could push out over social media

2. RC thoughts – BH stated it would be nice for RC to be a safe place for people to bring concerns of overstepping. Could there be an anonymous reporting mechanism set up? Arlington Police Department website has a clear process for reporting but not anonymously. This has been dealt with ad-hoc in the past such as people going to the Diversity Task Group or the Human Rights Commission. BH suggested Commissioners could be trained as advocates or ombudsmen. LK provided feedback on commitment to community policing and building community trust. SRV asked for members of the RC to get back to her before next meeting to collect and submit feedback.

7. Commission Membership/Recruitment/Infrastructure

- a. Recruitment for 2 new commissioners – no news yet on applicants. Vacancies were posted to RC newsletter and social media. AR will get word out more broadly to other organizations. One of the commissioners will need to be appointed by the school commission to replace KMM. MG can reach out to the schools to see if there might be nominations. If JH is able to approve removal of 18+ requirement there could be recruitment of a student by reaching out to GSA, but the caveat would be that student may not be available for 3-year term. LD also floated the idea of having a student liaison that regularly attends meetings instead of a dedicated commissioner seat. We have had student liaisons in the past (Ottoson and HS) – will reach out with invitation again.

8. Public Engagement and Open Commentary - no members of the public attended.

9. Close and Next Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021

8:30pm: SRV moved to adjourn meeting, MG seconds, meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: October 21, 2021, 6:30 pm, Remote Participation

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.